

Corro, Antonio del, b. 1527, Seville, d. 1591, London; Spanish Calvinist, important and controversial figure in the history of 16th-century Spanish Protestantism, professor at Oxford, author of the first Spanish grammar published in Great Britain (1586, although already written in 1560).

After C.'s *Reglas gramaticales*, soon translated into English by J. Thorius (1590), who added to it a Spanish-English dictionary, eight more grammars would appear in Great Britain before 1622 (including Stepney, Percyvall, and → Minsheu). Originally meant for the lessons of prince Henry IV of Navarre, it is addressed to native speakers of French, as the title shows. Reflecting its practical purpose, this grammar is divided into two large sections. The aim of the first is to identify and study the 'letters', their 'power and pronunciation'. There is also information about Spanish orthography, from an etymological perspective (Nieto 1986: 28), and pronunciation, with a valuable description of the sound system of classical Spanish (Alonso 1951: 226). The second section deals with the parts of speech. C. distinguishes eight different parts, in both Spanish and French, thus departing from the Spanish tradition (Nieto 1986: 43–44): noun, pronoun, verb, participle, adverb, preposition, conjunction and interjection. They are in turn divided into declinable and non-declinable parts of speech. As for the declension of nouns, in spite of not admitting very firmly the Latin origin of Spanish, C. points out that the Spanish language lacks cases, instead using prepositions to discharge this function. *Reglas* ends with an undeveloped reflection in French on the role of syntax in the mastery of a language: "C'est une chose fort necessaire en la grammaire de quelque langue que ce soit, la concordance des genres, le regime des verbes, et la proportionnée disposition de toutes les autres partes" ['It is a very necessary thing in the grammar of any language, the agreement of genders, the government of the verb, and the balanced arrangement of all the other parts'].

(1586): *Reglas gramaticales para aprender la lengua española y francesa*, Oxford (repr. L. Nieto ed., Madrid, 1988; electronic version in: Gómez Asencio, J. J., ed., *Antiguas gramáticas del castellano*, Madrid, 2001, CDROM). Catalographic description and commentary by Centro Virtual Cervantes <http://cvc.cervantes.es/obref/fortuna/expo/lengua/lengu017.htm>.

ALONSO, A. (1951): "Identificación de gramáticos españoles clásicos", *RFE* 25, 221–36. BREVA-CLARAMONTE, M. (2000): "The teaching of Sp. in 16th-c. Europe", in: AUROUX ET AL. (2000–2006), I, chap. 99. DA SILVA, M. (1998): "C., A. de", in: *CRGTL*, no. 3106. MOREL-FATIO, A. (1901): *Ambrosio Salazar et l'étude de l'espagnol en France sous Louis XIII*, Paris

& Toulouse. NIETO, L. (1988): "Study", in: C. (1586, repr. 1988), above.

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